



Toronto Community Benefits Network

April 8, 2014

Peter Milczyn, Chair
Planning and Growth Management Committee
City of Toronto
100 Queen Street West,
Toronto ON M5H 2N2

Attn: Nancy Martins, Committee Administrator (pgmc@toronto.ca)

Re: PG32.4 Eglinton Connects Planning Study

Dear Councillor Milczyn,

I am writing on behalf of the Toronto Community Benefits Network (TCBN) to support the Chief Planner's recommendations on the Final Directions Report of the Eglinton Connects Planning Study and to ask City Planning to include a job creation strategy that uses Community Benefits Agreements in the implementation process for *Building Eglinton*.

A Community Benefits Agreement is a tool to ensure that job opportunities from public investment in infrastructure are leveraged to create more equitable and inclusive local economies, address poverty and precarious work, especially for youth, and spur neighbourhood's long term vitality.

The TCBN is actively working with Metrolinx, and the Ministry of Training Colleges and Universities to create jobs, apprentice training and economic opportunities for historically disadvantaged communities and equity seeking groups on the Eglinton Crosstown Light Rail Transit project.

It would be very useful for the City of Toronto to embrace jobs, apprentice training and economic opportunity as a community benefit to be delivered through planning agreements with the private and public developers who will be involved in the intensification of mobility hubs and focus areas.

The TCBN has carefully studied Community Benefit Agreements in Canada, the United States and the United Kingdom, and is ready to outline how successful community benefits programs in other cities can be used effectively in Toronto. We would be pleased to offer you a briefing on how a Community Benefits Agreement can benefit the city, neighbourhoods, residents and contractors.

We look forward to taking part in the upcoming consultations on implementation measures.

Respectfully,

A blue ink signature of Steve Shallhorn.

Steve Shallhorn
Chair, Toronto Community Benefits Network
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www.communitybenefits.ca
cc: Jennifer Keesmaat